

National Committee to
Preserve Social Security
and Medicare



Barbara B. Kennelly
President &
Chief Executive Officer

June 24, 2004

Representative Edward Markey
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Markey:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I write to endorse your legislation H.R. 4595, The Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004. We applaud your efforts to introduce bipartisan legislation that will provide increased funding for Alzheimer's research and offer critical services and support for our nation's caregivers.

We understand that H.R. 4595 would double the funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This increased funding is likely to result in medical breakthroughs regarding the prevention and treatment of the disease. Additionally, the bill will provide support for caregivers by increasing the availability of services such as respite care, home health care, counseling and training. The legislation financially assists caregivers through a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums and a \$3,000 tax credit for certain expenses, including prescription drugs, home health care, and specialized daycare. Finally, the legislation launches a public education campaign to raise awareness about the latest advances in research and prevention. Currently, an estimated 4.5 million American's live with Alzheimer's disease. As our population ages, the number of American's with Alzheimer's is expected to multiply.

Again we thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of our nation's seniors. We look forward to working with you toward passage of this important legislation.

Cordially,

Barbara B. Kennelly
President and CEO